



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10  
1200 SIXTH AVENUE  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98101

JUL 24 1987

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: WD-134

RECEIVED

JUL 29 1987

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

IDAHO OPERATIONS OFFICE

Burt Doughty  
Supervisor of Environmental Affairs  
Cyprus Thompson Creek  
P.O. Box 62  
Clayton, Idaho 83227

Re: NPDES Permit No. ID-002540-2

Dear Mr. Doughty:

Enclosed for your information are copies of a draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit which we propose to reissue to the referenced facility, the public notice as it will appear in the local newspaper, and a fact sheet which outlines the basis for the permit.

The Public Notice initiates a 30-day public comment period. Following the close of the public comment period, we will consider the comments received in preparation of the final permit.

Technical questions regarding the permit may be referred to Wally Scarborough of our Idaho Operations Office in Boise at (208) 334-1453.

Sincerely,

Harold E. Geren, Chief  
Water Permits and Compliance Branch

Enclosures

cc: IDHW - DOE, Boise and Pocatello

United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 10  
Park Place Building, 13th Floor  
1200 Sixth Avenue, WD-134  
Seattle, Washington 98101  
(206) 442-1214

NOTICE OF PROPOSED REISSUANCE OF A NATIONAL POLLUTANT  
DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMIT TO  
DISCHARGE TO WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES

and

NOTICE OF STATE CERTIFICATION

Public Notice No.: ID-002540-2

Public Notice Issuance Date: July 30, 1987

Public Notice Expiration Date: August 28, 1987

1. Applicant:

Cyprus Thompson Creek  
P.O. Box 62  
Clayton, Idaho 83227

NPDES Permit No.: ID-002540-2

The applicant (Cyprus) owns and operates an open pit molybdenum mine and concentration mill located 35 miles southwest of Challis, Idaho, in Custer County. Process mill wastewater and mine drainage is contained in a tailings impoundment. Discharges consist of storm water runoff from waste rock dumps (#001 and #002) and stormwater runoff from the mine access road (#003).

The mine site is drained by Thompson and Squaw Creeks, tributaries of the Salmon River. Both drainages are classified by the State of Idaho for designated uses as agricultural water supply, secondary contact recreation and habitat for cold water biota and salmonid spawning. The Salmon River, at the points of confluence with Thompson and Squaw Creeks, has been classified as a Special Resource Water (Idaho Water Quality Standards and Wastewater Treatment Requirements, 1985, Section 1-2130).

2. Tentative Determination

The Region 10 Office of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has tentatively determined to reissue a discharge permit to the above listed applicant.

3. State Certification

This Notice will also serve as Public Notice of the intent of the State of Idaho, Department of Health and Welfare to consider certifying that the subject discharge will comply with the applicable provisions of Sections 208(e), 301, 302, 303, 306 and 307 of the Clean Water Act. The NPDES permit will not be issued until the certification requirements of Section 401 have been met.

#### 4. Public Comments

Persons wishing to comment on the tentative determinations contained in the proposed permit or wishing to request that a public hearing be held, may do so in writing, within 30 days of the date of this public notice. A request for a public hearing shall state the nature of the issues to be raised as well as the requester's name, address and telephone number. Comments must be received within this 30 day period to be considered in the formulation of final determinations regarding the application. All comments should include the name, address and telephone number of the commenter and a concise statement of the exact basis of any comment and the relevant facts upon which it is based. All written comments and requests should be submitted to EPA at the above address to the attention of the Director, Water Division.

Persons wishing to comment on State Certification should submit written comments within this 30 day period to the State of Idaho, Department of Health and Welfare, Statehouse, Boise, Idaho 83720.

#### 5. Administrative Record

The proposed NPDES permit and other related documents are on file and may be inspected and copies made at the above address any time between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Copies and other information may be requested by writing to the EPA at the above address to the attention of the Water Permits Section, or by calling (206) 442-1214. This material is also available from the EPA Idaho Operations Office, 422 West Washington Street, Boise, Idaho 83702. A copying machine is available in the Seattle office for public use at a charge of 20 cents per copy sheet. There is no charge if the total cost is less than 25 dollars.